

## Message Text

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ACTION AF-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 IO-13 ISO-00 DHA-02 CIAE-00 DODE-00  
PM-04 H-01 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01  
PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 AID-05 /088 W  
-----251909Z 110307 /43

R 251450Z APR 77  
FM AMEMBASSY PRETORIA  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7419  
INFO AMCONSUL CAPE TOWN  
AMCONSUL DURBAN  
AMEMBASSY GABORONE  
USMISSION GENEVA  
AMCONSUL JOHANNESBURG  
AMEMBASSY LONDON  
AMEMBASSY LUSAKA  
AMEMBASSY MAPUTO  
USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

C O N F I D E N T I A L PRETORIA 2018

CAPE TOWN ALSO FOR EMBASSY

E.O. 11652: GDS  
TAGS: PINT, PINS, SF  
SUBJECT: RUMORED ADDITIONAL DEATHS IN DETENTION

1. LOCAL PRESS HAS REPORTED TWO SUCCESSFUL ESCAPES BY  
SECTION 6 TERRORISM ACT DETAINEES FROM HIGH-SECURITY CELLS  
IN JOHANNESBURG'S JOHN VORSTER SQUARE PRISON. FIRST ALLEGED  
ESCAPEE WAS PASCALL MOLOI, A JOHANNESBURG BANK TELLER  
DETAINED IN SOWETO ON FEBRUARY 6. ACCORDING TO PRESS,  
MOLOI USED SMUGGLED HACKSAW TO CUT CELL WINDOW BARS DURING  
NIGHT OF APRIL 6 AND LOWERED HIMSELF TO STREET BY MAKESHIFT  
ROPE OF BLANKETS AND CLOTHING. SECOND TERRORISM ACT DETAINEE,  
PATRICK MABINDA REPEATED FEAT DURING NIGHT OF APRIL 11.  
COMMISSIONER OF POLICE, GENERAL GERT PRINSLOO ANNOUNCED  
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A NATION-WIDE SEARCH FOR THE DETAINEES AND SAID THAT SECRET  
MEASURES HAVE ALREADY BEEN UNDERTAKEN IN PRISON TO PREVENT  
FUTURE ESCAPES. PRESS SUBSEQUENTLY REPORTED ROTATION OF  
PRISON GUARD FORCE.

2. MANY MEMBERS OF CIVIL RIGHTS ORGANIZATIONS, PRESS AND  
LEGAL COMMUNITY ARE SUSPICIOUS THAT MOLOI AND MABINDA MAY

HAVE DIED UNDER POLICE CUSTODY AND ESCAPE STORY IS RUSE TO HIDE TRUTH FROM PUBLIC. MANY QUESTION HOW MAKESHIFT ROPE COULD POSSIBLY BE OF SUFFICIENT LENGTH TO REACH GROUND IF DETAINEE CELL IS ABOVE SECOND FLOOR. IN RESPONSE TO GROWING RUMORS, SHUN CHETTY, ATTORNEY FOR NUMEROUS DETAINEES AND RIOT-ACCUSED INFORMED EMBOFF APRIL 23 THAT HE HAD GOOD EVIDENCE THAT BOTH MOLOI AND MABINDA DID ESCAPE AND HAVE ARRIVED SAFELY IN BOTSWANA.

3. COMMENT: EASE IN WHICH BLACK AND WHITE SOUTH AFRICANS SUSPECTED SAG COVERUP OF ADDITIONAL DEATHS IN DETENTION REFLECTS GENERAL DOUBT OVER CIRCUMSTANCES SURROUNDING SAG ACCOUNT OF RECENT DEATHS IN DETENTION AND SAG'S REFUSAL TO PERMIT AN INDEPENDENT COMMISSION OF INQUIRY TO INVESTIGATE PAST DEATHS.BOWDLER

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## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** PRESS COMMENTS, DETENTION, ALLEGATIONS, PRISONERS RELEASE, DEATHS  
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**Copy:** SINGLE  
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**Decaption Note:**  
**Disposition Action:** RELEASED  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
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**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 22 May 2009  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
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**Drafter:** n/a  
**Enclosure:** n/a  
**Executive Order:** GS  
**Errors:** N/A  
**Expiration:**  
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**Litigation History:**  
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**Original Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
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**Review Release Event:** n/a  
**Review Transfer Date:**  
**Review Withdrawn Fields:** n/a  
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**Status:** NATIVE  
**Subject:** RUMORED ADDITIONAL DEATHS IN DETENTION  
**TAGS:** PINT, PINS, SF, (MOLOI, PASCALL), (MABINDA, PATRICK)  
**To:** STATE  
**Type:** TE  
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**Review Markings:**  
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